

APPLICATION

of

Leo Berbee

for

UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

on

VARIETY OF HOSTA PLANT NAMED 'BERSUN'

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Attorneys  
FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP  
200 Oceangate, Suite 1550  
Long Beach, CA 90802

## VARIETY OF HOSTA PLANT NAMED 'BERSUN'

### BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Hosta, botanically known as *Hosta fortunei marginata-alba* and further known by the varietal name 'BERSUN'. This new variety is also sold under the trade name SUNDANCER (Breeder's Ref. No. H 90-46). The new variety was discovered in a selective breeding program by the Inventor, Leo Berbee, in Lisse, The Netherlands in 1990. The new variety is a sport selection from a *Hosta fortunei marginata-alba*. The new cultivar was selected from the progeny of this sport selection in a controlled environment by the inventor in Lisse, The Netherlands. These divisions were selected and propagated through rhizome divisions selecting for differences in growth habit and distinctive leaf color pattern.

Continued observation of the vegetative divisions resulting from asexual reproduction of clump divisions taken at Lisse, The Netherlands have confirmed that the distinguishing features of this new cultivar came true, remain stable and are retained through successive propagations.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the cultivar 'BERSUN' have not been observed under all possible environmental and cultural conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity, length of day, irrigation

amount and frequency, and/or fertilizer rate without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be among the unique characteristics of 'BERSUN'. These characteristics distinguish

5 'BERSUN' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Relatively compact growth habit; and
2. Distinctive leaf color pattern with its medium green foliage highlighted by a soft chartreuse variegation that may whiten when exposed to heat.

Plants of the new Hosta can be compared to plants of the Hosta *fortunei* cultivar  
10 'Francee' (unpatented). Compared to plants of the cultivar 'Francee', the new Hosta is relatively more compact in its growth habit including shorter scapes with pale lavender flowers and foliage having a distinct color pattern including a soft chartreuse variegation and distinct edge coloring.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 The invention is depicted in the accompanying colored photographs in which:

FIG. 1 shows the plant as a clump growing in a garden environment; and

FIG. 2 is a side-by-side comparison of the new Hosta on the left with the comparator 'Francee'.

The photographs depict the overall appearance of the new Hosta, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the Detailed Botanical Description which more accurately describe the actual colors of the new Hosta.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW PLANT

The following detailed description sets forth characteristics of the new cultivar.

10 The data which defines each characteristic was collected from asexual reproductions grown in an open greenhouse with irrigation provided by drip feeding in a hydroponic system, and carried out by the breeder at Clyde, Victoria, Australia, approximately 38 degrees, 9 minutes South latitude at 16m elevation. The plant histories were taken on five plants of 'BERSUN' potted into 150mm pots and four plants of 'Francee' potted  
15 into 200mm pots.

In the following table of comparative features, color references are made to the Royal Horticultural Society of London Colour Chart, 1995 Edition. The color values were determined on plant material grown in an open greenhouse. The comparator description was taken from the Time-Life Encyclopaedia of Gardening.

	'BERSUN'	'Francee'
<b>The Plant</b>		
Plant Growth Rate	Moderately vigorous	Moderately vigorous
Length of Flowering Season	Mid-December / mid-January through mid to late March	
Time of Flowering Season	Mid-summer (southern hemisphere)	Mid-summer (southern hemisphere)
Density	Moderate	Moderate
Plant Shape	Upright, irregularly rounded	Upright, irregularly rounded
Growth Type	Clumping	Clumping
Mean Height (mm)	332	392
Mean Width (mm)	634	554
<b>Leaf</b>		
Color-Main	137B	Darker than 137B
Color-Edge	150D	2D
Characteristics	Petiolate	Petiolate
Mean Length (mm)	188.4	195.4
Mean Width (mm)	78.24	93.08
Apex	Pointed	Pointed
Margin	Undulation slight to medium	Undulation slight to very slight
Texture	Prominently veined	Prominently veined
Shape	Petiolate to broad lanceolate	Petiolate to broad lanceolate
<b>Petiole</b>		
Size: Mean Length (mm)	228	227
Size: Mean Width (mm)	8.6 at mid-point	11.98 at mid-point
Color	143C	137C, edge 2D

<b>Scapes</b>		
Branching arrangement	Non branching sometimes with a leaf part way up	Non branching sometimes with one to two leaves
Surface texture	Smooth	Smooth
Mean Length (mm)	470	689.6
Mean stem diameter (mm) (just below inflorescence)	3.74	6.3
<b>INFLORESCENCE</b>		
Length of flowering period	Mid-December / mid-January through mid to late March	
Shape	Lily like	Lily like
Mean Number of florets	12.2	22.8
Mean floret length (mm)	57.54	55.74
Mean flower head size (mm)	44.2	46.9
Lastingness of bloom	2 days	2 days
Fragrance of bloom	very weak and spicy	very weak
Profile Upper	Flat	Flat
Profile Lower	Wedge Shaped	Wedge Shaped
Color Midzone outside	85D	85C
Color Midzone inside	85D	85C
Color Margin inside	85D	85C
<b>Flower bud</b>		
Shape	Elongated thin to an ovate final 1/3 <sup>rd</sup>	Elongated thin to an ovate final 1/3 <sup>rd</sup>
Mean Length (mm) (at time of sepal separation)	60.14	66.94
Mean width (mm) (at time of sepal separation)	13	11.6
Color	85A	85A

<b>Petal</b>		
Number	6	6
Mean length (mm) (as at separation)	21.7	20.92
Mean width (mm)	10.4	9.24
Arrangement	3 inner, 3 outer arranged in opposition. Connected at approximately 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> from apex	3 inner, 3 outer arranged in opposition. Connected at approximately 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> from apex
<b>Pedicel</b>		
Mean width (mm)	2.38	2.38
color	85A	85A
prickles	Nil	Nil
Mean Length (mm)	7.18	11.6
<b>Basal Spot</b>		
Presence	Absent	Absent
<b>Stamen</b>		
Filament color	17B	17C
Mean filament length (mm)	4.98	2.88
Anther color	145D	145C at base to 145D at top
Mean anther length (mm) (base to bend)	56.18 (top bends back towards base)	47 (top bent at right angle)
<b>Pistils</b>		
- Mean style length (mm)	67.1 (bent at right angle at top)	57.3 (bent at right angle at top)
- Style color	145D	145C

Seed vessel		
- size	Small	Small
- Color	145B	144A
- Fruit Presence	6 valved, loculicidal capsule	6 valved, loculicidal capsule

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

'BERSUN' is primarily distinguished from plants of the Hosta cultivar 'Francee' and other hybrid cultivars of Hosta genus by its uniquely compact growth habit and distinctive leaf color pattern. 'BERSUN' is known as a vigorous perennial with a compact growth habit and appealing medium green foliage highlighted by soft chartreuse variegation that may brighten to white when exposed to heat. An abundance of pale lavender flowers having a light, spicy fragrance frequently appear about mid-season on scapes rising about 18.5 inches (470mm).